

## DAY TWO: 26 November: *Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation*

FGM also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is the ritual cutting or removal of some, or all of the external female genitalia. The practice is rooted in gender inequality, attempts to control women's sexuality, and ideas about purity.

### Fatima's story

Fatima lives in Somalia with her family where she attends a school nearby. Her mother is a seamstress. Fatima, at 6 years of age, had a visit from her grandmother. All was pre-arranged and Fatima didn't know what was happening. *'They held my shoulders and knees, and I started crying and trying to close my legs. It was very terrible. I can never forget that. I was at home for seven days with acute pain in the area they cut. Don't do this to your daughters!'* (Source: [www.unicef.org/somalia](http://www.unicef.org/somalia))

### Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?  
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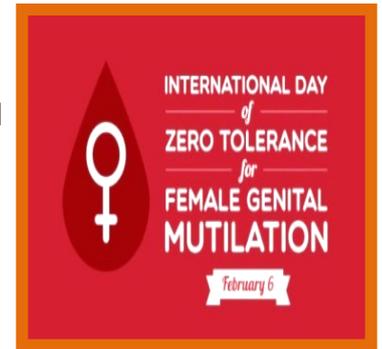
### Global Facts

- ✚ 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM
- ✚ 3 million girls are at risk of undergoing FGM annually
- ✚ Girls 14 and younger represent 44 million of those who have been cut, with the highest prevalence of FGM occurring in Africa. (UNICEF)

### Laudato Si - Pope Francis.

*"Learning to accept our body to care for it and to respect its full meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology."* LS June 2015

**Beijing+20 in 2015** reaffirmed that a major obstacle to ending violence against women, is the persistence of discriminatory attitudes and social norms that normalize and permit violence. Victim blaming attitudes are widespread across all countries.



(Image used with permission of [stopfgm.or.ke](http://stopfgm.or.ke))

**UNICEF with UNFPA** (UN Population Fund) co-leads the global programme towards the elimination of FGM. It works with governments, communities, religious leaders and other partners to end the practice.

### UN Sustainable Development Goals

**SDG 5.3:** *'Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.'* This target reflects the international community's commitment to ending FGM by 2030.

**CEDAW** (Convention on the Elimination & all forms of Discrimination against Women)

Suggest reading this during the **16 Days**  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

**No. 14** - *That State parties take appropriate and effective measures with a view to eradicating the practice of female circumcision.*

**No. 12** - *It requires States to eliminate discrimination against women in their access to health-care services throughout the life cycle*

**ACTION** to promote respect and equality between all women and men....

- ✚ Visit <http://www.endfgm.eu/female-genital-mutilation/what-is-fgm/>
- ✚ Promote the value of girls' education
- ✚ Support organisations promoting children's rights e.g. [www.stopfgm.or.ke](http://www.stopfgm.or.ke)

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*Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.*

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

is a systematic and widespread, human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries.



[www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free](http://www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free)

## **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...**



**49** Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.

**DAY 2...**

**26<sup>th</sup> November**

### **CHILD MARRIAGE....**

**Elimination of  
Female Genital  
Mutilation (FGM)**



[www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay](http://www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay)

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See [www.salesiansisters.net](http://www.salesiansisters.net)

